

HIGHLIGHTS

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JUNE 2023



DISTRICT MEETINGS 2023

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who attended our District Meetings last month!! We enjoyed visiting with so many members, sharing some information with you, and answering your questions.

Board members presented several key items at each meeting. The cost of materials and new services continues to rise for Big Horn and thus members. Big Horn has continually tried to work with the Forest Service to be able to maintain our facilities to try to reduce forest fire risks, but the progress has been slow. Big Horn is looking at removing some overhead lines and replacing with underground, potentially with partial grant funding.

Another concern is five commercial services account for around 44% of Big Horn’s electric sales and those accounts are gas, oil and related industries. As we all know fossil fuels are taking hits and most likely will continue to be impacted negatively. Lastly, Big Horn has not had an increase in rates since 2017, however Big Horn is expecting a price increase from Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Big Horn’s wholesale power supplier). Big Horn will work with our rate consultant to analyze projected wholesale power costs and other costs to determine the amount of rate increase. Currently a 10% rate increase effective January 1, 2024 is expected

to be passed on.

In total for all meetings there were close to 300 members that attended our district meetings.

Local caterers from each district provided a free dinner from the co-op.

Prizes were drawn and awarded after each meeting. The prizes included meat bundles from our fair animal purchases and energy credits. Last, but not least was the electric blower donated by Tri-State. We drew one ticket in each district to be a potential winner of the blower and the final winner of the electric blower being Linda Seaton from Meetetse.

Go to Page 3 for pictures from the meetings.

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FAQ

Why do you charge me extra to pay with my credit or debit card?

The added 2.45% convenience fee is NOT a Big Horn REA fee – it is a fee charged by the credit card companies to use this “convenience”. This added fee is what allows Big Horn REA the capability to offer credit/ debit card payments as an option.

Energy Efficiency for Manufactured Homeowners

A place to call home means something different for everyone. For some, it may be in a van traveling the country and for others, it could mean converting storage containers into a livable space. With home prices on the rise, people are thinking creatively to source cost-effective housing.

It was the same type of creative thinking that led to the birth and popularity of manufactured homes in the early 1950s. A manufactured home, formerly referred to as a mobile home, means the home was built entirely in a factory under a federal building code administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Once built, the homes are transported to a site and installed.

Affordability has always been a key driver for choosing a manufactured home. The average price per square foot was \$57 for manufactured homes versus \$119 for site-built homes, based on a 2021 report. Today's manufactured homes are customizable and offer endless ways to modernize, including opportunities to increase energy efficiency.

While most new manufactured homes are more energy efficient than their predecessors, the standard energy code that manufactured homes must meet was put in place in 1994. A more efficient standard went into effect last month for all new homes manufactured after May 2023. The following tips can be applied to a newly manufactured home build or a home manufactured built decades ago.

There are many ways to make your manufactured home more energy efficient. The following tips can help you save money on your utility bills and be more comfortable in your home.

Energy-Efficient Windows and Doors

Temperature gain and loss in home openings like windows and doors can account for as much as 30 percent of residential heating and cooling energy use. Homeowners who replace or install energy-efficient windows save a significant amount on their electricity bill because their HVAC system isn't working as hard to maintain the desired temperature. In addition to

energy savings, upgraded windows and doors increase the home's property value by improving the home's appearance and decreasing the amount of outside noise heard while in the home. When shopping for windows and doors, always look for ENERGY STAR® and NFRC labels.

Another cost-effective way to make openings more efficient is to add storm windows and doors which can now be installed on the inside of your home. Many advancements have been made to storm windows over the last ten years and cost a fraction of the total cost to install when compared to a window replacement.



Air-sealing

Even if you have newer windows or doors, an energy audit can identify where air is leaking. Professionals use equipment called a blower door to pinpoint where air is infiltrating holes and cracks.

Once leaks are found, caulking and weatherstripping are cost-efficient air-sealing techniques to maintain a comfortable temperature in your home. Caulk cracks and openings between the walls of your home and around door and window frames. Add weatherstripping around the interior of doors and window sashes to make your home more comfortable and reduce your energy bills.

Insulation

Manufactured homes have a reputation for being under-insulated. They're designed to be lightweight with thin walls that make installing new insulation or updating existing insulation difficult. However, there are still plenty of options for manufactured homes, including the four most common types of insulation: blanket (or batt), fiberglass board,

spray foam, and blown-in insulation. An insulation expert can help determine the best option for your home. An expert may also recommend insulated skirting and roofing.

Belly Wrap

A belly wrap is a protective covering on the bottom of manufactured homes that keep out moisture and pests. Like your walls, the belly performs more efficiently when insulated. Older homes likely need updated belly wraps as the materials used have improved in recent years and the existing belly wrap may have tears. Installing a new belly wrap is a great time to add insulation. Insulation can also be added to the existing belly wrap that doesn't need to be upgraded.

Lighting and Appliances

Replace incandescent light bulbs with LED lighting. Energy-saving LEDs can be used in most common light fixtures, from lamps and accent lighting to track and outdoor fixtures. If you're gradually switching to LED lightbulbs, start with the bulbs you use the most.

Energy-efficient appliances are designed to use less energy which saves you money and reduces your personal carbon emissions. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when purchasing energy-efficient refrigerators, washers and dryers, dishwashers, and other household appliances and electronics.



Sun and Wind Blocks

While manufactured homes have the ability to be mobile, many choose to stay in one place for long periods of time or permanently. Planting trees and other vegetation is a healthy practice to shade the home from sun and block wind.

DISTRICT MEETINGS 2023

Members in attendance in Burlington.



President John Joyce presenting a donation check to Adrian Preator of the Burlington Fire Department. Each district location was presented with a donation check.

Members in attendance in Shell.



Pictured is Shawn Taylor the WREA Executive Director who gave members at our district three meeting a report on 2023 Wyoming legislative session, certificated service territories and a general explanation of the WREA for new members.

Members in attendance in Meeteetse.



Pictured is Lonnie Tucker Member Relationship Manager for Tri-State G & T who attended the district two meeting and the district four meeting where he gave a little more information on rebates, renewables at the power supplier level and the potential rate increase from Tri-State to be passed along to Big Horn.



For those who don't stay put, installing a sun screen or exterior awnings is another option to block the sun but won't help with wind.

Rebates and Incentives

If you're considering upgrading your home's energy efficiency, check with Big Horn to find out which rebates and incentives are available to you.

Contributor:
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Tri-State G&T

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!)

Source: energystar.gov





New Services! Approximate costs.

If you were in attendance at the district meetings, you know that we had handed out a sheet that had the approximate cost

of a new service. If you weren't in attendance, don't worry we didn't forget about you! If you're thinking about getting a new

service here is a calculation for a cost of service. Make sure to keep in mind that there is a lead time on transformers and meter bases.

Cost of a new service in 2023

2023
Lead time on Transformer: 15 weeks
Lead time on meter base: 12 weeks

2017
Lead time on Transformer: 1 week
Lead time on meter base: 1 week

Costs:

- Cut-out/bracket: \$213.67
- 35' Pole: \$591.11
- Misc: Straps, jumper wire, clamp, etc: \$48.00
- 15' conduit, wire, weatherhead: \$288.57
- Guy wire, anchor rod/plate, fiberglass rod, guy cover: \$267.30
- Avian cover up protection: \$56.65
- 15 kVa 7,200-volt transformer: \$2318.08
- Single Phase AMR Meter: \$200.80
- 200 Amp Meter Base: \$322.73
- Ground rod, ground wire, ground clamp: \$85.63

TOTAL MATERIAL COST: APPROXIMATELY \$4,392.54

TOTAL MATERIAL COST in 2022: APPROXIMATELY \$2,992.44

TOTAL MATERIAL COST in 2021: APPROXIMATELY \$2,219.25

TOTAL MATERIAL COST in 2017: APPROXIMATELY \$1,750.20

These costs do not include powerline wire, lineman labor time or truck time.

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